Railway projects in the NER

252. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the location-wise details of new railway projects approved by Government in the NER during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the estimated cost of the said projects, project-wise;

(c) whether the progress of gauge-conversion works in the NER is not upto the target level during the current Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Location-wise details of New Railway Projects approved by Government in the North Eastern Region during the Ninth Plan and the estimated cost of the said projects are given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Railways are committed to spend at least 10% of the budgetary support given to the Railways on projects in the North Eastern Region. These projects include Gauge Conversion works in the North Eastern Region. Progress of these works are monitored at the highest level. Status of ongoing Gauge Conversion work of North Eastern Region is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

New Railway Project approved by Govt. in the NER during IX plan

Project	Plan Head	Cost (in Crores of Rs.)
Lunding-Silchar	Gauge Conversion	648
Katakhal-Bairabhi	Gauge Conversion	200
New Jalpaiguri Siliguri-New Bongaigaon	Gauge Conversion	468.1
Harmuti-Itanagar	New Lines	156
Diphu-Karong PH I	New Lines	800
Bogibeel bridge	New Lines	1000
Kumarghat-Agartala	New Lines	575

Statement-II

Plan-Head	Project	Cost	Exp. Upto 1998-99	Outlay for 1999-2000	Status
		(Amount in Crores of Rs.)			
Gauge Conversion	Lumding-Dibrugarh with linked fingures	592.02	589.65	2.00	The work of main line from Lumding to Dibrugarh, Tinsukhia-Lekhapani and branch lines from Furkating to Mariani and Simalguri-Moranhat has been completed. Gauge Conversion work on Makum-Dangari and Amguri-Tuli sections is in progress and will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
Gauge Conversion	Lumding-Silchar	648.00	41.21	40.00	Final location survey for diversions in the ghat section to suit the requirement of BG and preparation of land acquisition plan and papers has been taken up. RITES have already completed the paper alignment for entire length and staking of the alignment of the alignment has been takenup. Earthwork and bridges are in progress between Badarpur and Silchar (30 Kms.) where no change in alignment is necessary. The work on 25 Km. length from Lumding to Hathikadi has also been commenced.

Gauge Conversion	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri	468.10	0.00	69.00	Requisite clearances have since been received. Contract for earthwork and bridge over 150 kms has been awarded and work is in progress. The tenders for another 120 km. stretch are under finalisation.
Gauge Conversion	Katakhal-Bairabhi	200.00	0.01	2.00	Requisite clearances have since been received. Preliminary arrangements are begin made for starting the work.
Gauge Conversion	Katihar-Jogbani (including Katihar-Radhikapur)	137.24	0.00	0.00	The work will be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
Gauge Conversion	New Guwahati-Lumding	192.14	191.79	0.00	Work has been completed and commissioned.

Targets are fixed on yearly basis depending upon overall availability of resources. Tentative targets have been indicated against each project wherever fixed. These projects will be progressed to completion as per availability of resources in the coming years.